

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: REFERENCES TO ISSUE OF COMMUNISM IN NATO GOVERN-
MENTS AT PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 3

WHILE WE UNDERSTAND FULL TEXT OF PRESS BRIEFING SENT VIA
WIRELESS FILE, THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT RELATING TO CURRENT
DISCUSSION IN THE FRENCH PRESS OF THE ISSUE OF COMMUNISTS
IN GOVERNMENTS OF NATO COUNTRIES IS REPEATED FOR YOUR
INFORMATION.

BEGIN TEXT:" Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS REPORT
THAT A POLITICAL OFFICER OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN FRANCE
VISITED THE LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY TO TRY TO CON-
VINCE HIM NOT TO FORM AN ALLIANCE WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNIST
PARTY?

A. I HAVE SEEN THAT REPORT. I THINK THE EMBASSY HAS
ALREADY PUT SOMETHING OUT ON IT. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS
THAT THE EMBASSY OFFICER IN QUESTION, AS PART OF HIS
ROUTINE CALLS ON POLITICAL LEADERS -- WHICH ANY POLITICAL
OFFICER DOES -- HAD SUCH DISCUSSIONS. THERE WAS NO INTER-
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REFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. IT

WAS A ROUTINE CALL.

Q. THE REPORT SAYS THAT THE CALL WAS REQUESTED OR WAS AT THE INSTRUCTIONS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER.

A. THAT IS NOT MY INFORMATION.

Q. WHICH WOULD MAKE IT SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM A ROUTINE VISIT WITH POLITICAL LEADERS. IS THAT NOT TRUE?

A. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THAT IS NOT WHY THE POLITICAL COUNSELLOR WAS MAKING THESE CALLS. HE WAS MAKING THESE IN PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES TO REPORT ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN FRANCE.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REPORTS? IS THE SUBSTANCE ACCURATE?

A. THE SUBSTANCE -- THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POINTS I THINK HE --.

Q. HE URGED THE SOCIALISTS NOT TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

A. THAT REFERS TO AN OLD STORY WHICH I THINK WE HAVE COMMENTED ON IN THE PAST IN PUBLIC, THAT WE HAVE MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN ON PARTICIPATION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNISTS IN NATO COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS.

Q. THIS IS A NEW STORY, WHERE A POLITICAL OFFICER CALLED ON A SPECIFIC PERSON AND MADE A SPECIFIC URGING.

A. IT WAS NOT A CALL MADE IN THE LAST DAY OR TWO, DICK. IT WAS A CALL MADE SOME TIME AGO.

Q. WAIT A MINUTE, YOU STILL HAVEN'T DEALT WITH THE SUBSTANCE, THE FACT THAT THE VIEW IS WELL KNOWN, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT URGE OTHERS TO DO THAT. IT GIVES ADVICE ONLY WHEN ASKED.

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A. I DO NOT KNOW IF THIS SUBJECT EVEN CAME UP IN THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. COHEN AND GASTON DEFFERRE , AND OTHER LEADERS. BUT CERTAINLY OUR VIEW ON THIS QUESTION IS WELL KNOWN. IT HAS BEEN STATED MANY TIMES.

Q. BOB, HAS THAT VIEW BEEN STATED ONLY WHEN ASKED, OR IS THAT NOW BEING VOLUNTEERED?

A. YOU MEAN, DID MR. COHEN VOLUNTEER U.S. VIEWS?

Q. YES.

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE VOLUNTEERED IT OR IF IT WAS ON AN "IF ASKED." NORMALLY WE HAVE SAID IT HAS BEEN ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS.

Q. HAS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT THIS --?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. AND WOULD YOU SAY THESE ROUTINE CALLS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT ELECTIONS ARE TAKING PLACE WITHIN A FEW WEEKS?

A. EXCUSE ME?

Q. HAVE THESE ROUTINE CALLS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT ELECTIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN A FEW WEEKS?

A. NO. AND I WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT THE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS IS REALLY ILL WITH THE FLU.

Q. AND OUR POSITION IS WHAT -- THAT THE COMMUNISTS -- THAT OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE COMMUNISTS?

I KNOW THIS IS OUR OFF-THE-RECORD POSITION. WHAT IS OUR ON-THE-RECORD POSITION?

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A. I THINK PUBLICLY ON THE RECORD, BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAVE SAID THAT -- I DON'T KNOW THAT BOTH, BUT EITHER -- THAT OBVIOUSLY THE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS IN NATO CABINETS WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE NATURE OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS WE HAVE KNOWN IT.

Q. THAT IS OUR POSITION, AND IT IS OUR POSITION ACROSS THE BOARD, RIGHT, IN EUROPE, OBVIOUSLY.

A. THAT IS OUR VIEW.

Q. AND IT IS STILL OUR VIEW, EVEN AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE. IT IS STILL OUR VIEW TODAY?

A. IT IS STILL OUR VIEW TODAY.

Q. MR. DEFFERRE SURELY KNEW ABOUT YOUR VIEWS, WHICH ARE WELL KNOWN. SO WHY DIDN'T YOU REMIND THEM TO HIM?

A. I DON'T HAVE A DETAILED REPORT ON THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. DEFFERRE AND MR. COHEN (POLITICAL COUNSELOR IN PARIS).

Q. HE PROTESTED AGAINST WHAT HE CALLED AN INTERFERENCE, AND NOT A ROUTINE CALL.

A. I AM SAYING THAT I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT MR. COHEN'S CALL ON MR. DEFFERRE WAS A ROUTINE CALL THAT HE MAKES ON ANY NUMBER OF POLITICAL LEADERS IN FRANCE.

Q. BOB, IF I CAN RETURN TO AN OPEN QUESTION FROM YESTERDAY ABOUT THIS EMPLOYEE, FORMER EMPLOYEE, AT THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WHO INQUIRED ABOUT A POSSIBLE CLAIM ON BEHALF OF HIS SON. YOU SAID YOU WOULD LOOK INTO THAT.

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING MORE THAN WHAT I POSTED.

Q. THANK YOU, BOB." END TEXT KISSINGER

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